IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 2, 4-7, and 13-16. Please cancel claims 1, 3 and 17. Please add new claims 18-39. All pending claims are presented below.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently amended) A system for threading e-mail messages, comprising:

a mailbox processor module for receiving e-mails;

a mailbox, communicatively coupled to the mailbox processor module, for

electronically storing e-mail messages;

a threading engine, communicatively coupled to the mailbox processor module, for:

determining that a <u>first</u> received e-mail is related to <u>a second e-mail</u>

<u>message, the second e-mail message received previously to the first</u>

<u>e-mail message;</u>

<u>creating an e-mail thread; and</u>

<u>associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail and the second e-mail,</u>

<u>the thread additionally including a persistent thread header, the</u>

<u>thread header having information derived from attributes of at least</u>

<u>one of the e-mails</u>

~~an existing thread of e-mail messages stored in the mailbox and associating the~~

~~received e-mail with the existing thread~~.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>18</u> wherein the persistent thread header includes a subject of the e-mail thread.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>18</u> wherein the persistent thread header includes an originator of the e-mail thread.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18 wherein the persistent thread header includes indicia of the number of messages in the thread.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18 wherein the persistent thread header includes a time that the e-mail thread was most recently updated.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the threading engine additionally updates a thread header associated with the existing thread.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes a subject of the e-mail thread.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes an originator of the e-mail thread.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes indicia of the number of messages in the thread.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the thread header includes a time that the e-mail thread was most recently updated.

13. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[3]] 36 wherein the persistent thread header includes a subject of the e-mail thread.

14. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[3]] 36 wherein the persistent thread header includes an originator of the e-mail thread.

15. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[3]] 36 wherein the persistent thread header includes indicia of the number of messages in the thread.

16. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim [[3]] 36 wherein the persistent thread header includes a time that the e-mail thread was most recently updated.

17. (Canceled).

18. (New) A method for threading e-mail messages, the method comprising:

receiving a first e-mail message;

determining that the first e-mail message is related to a second e-mail message, the

second e-mail message received previously to the first e-mail message;

creating an e-mail thread; and

associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail and the second e-mail, the thread

additionally including a persistent thread header, the thread header having

information derived from attributes of at least one of the e-mails.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

receiving a third e-mail message;

determining that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread;

associating the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread; and

updating the persistent thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third

e-mail message.

20. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

displaying information from the thread header in a user interface.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the displayed information is displayed in a color

associated with a sender of the first e-mail.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the displayed information is displayed in a color

associated with a sender of the second e-mail.

23. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein each sender of an e-mail has an associated priority,

and the displayed information is displayed in a color associated with a sender having the highest priority.

24. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising displaying information from at least one

unthreaded e-mail message in the same user interface.

25. (New) The method of claim 20 further comprising displaying an expansion icon associated

with the thread header in the user interface.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

responsive to a selection of the expansion icon, displaying information about each e-mail

message associated with the thread in the user interface.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 further comprising highlighting for selection an oldest unread e-mail message associated with the thread.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein e-mail messages associated with the thread are displayed in a common color.

29. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the first e-mail message is related to the second e-mail message if it is a reply to the second e-mail message.

30. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the first e-mail message is a reply to the second e-mail message if a In-Reply-To field of a header of the first e-mail message identifies the second e-mail message.

31. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the first e-mail message is related to the second e-mail message if it includes a forward of the second e-mail message.

32. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the first e-mail and the second e-mail are stored in different folders of a user's mailbox.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein at least one of the e-mails is stored in the user's sent items folder.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein at least one of the e-mails is stored in the user's personal items folder.

35. (New) The system of claim 2 wherein the threading engine is further configured for:
receiving a third e-mail message;
determining that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread;

associating the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread; and

updating the persistent thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third

e-mail message.

36. (New) A computer program product for threading e-mail messages, the program product
stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to perform the operations of:

receiving a first e-mail message;

determining that the first e-mail message is related to a second e-mail message, the second e-mail

message received previously to the first e-mail message;

creating an e-mail thread; and

associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail and the second e-mail, the thread additionally

including a persistent thread header, the thread header having information derived from

attributes of at least one of the e-mails.

37. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, further adapted for:

receiving a third e-mail message;

determining that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread;

associating the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread; and

updating the persistent thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third

e-mail message.

38. (New) A system for threading e-mail messages, the method comprising:

receiving means, for receiving a first e-mail message;

determining means, communicatively coupled to the receiving means, for determining that the

first e-mail message is related to a second e-mail message, the second e-mail message

received previously to the first e-mail message;

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creating means, communicatively coupled to the determining means, for creating an e-mail thread; and

associating means, communicatively coupled to the creating means, for associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail and the second e-mail, the thread additionally including a persistent thread header, the thread header having information derived from attributes of at least one of the e-mails.

39. (New) The system of claim 38, wherein:

the receiving means are further configured to receive a third e-mail message;

the determining means are further configured to determine that the third e-mail message is related to the e-mail thread; and

the associating means are further configured to associate the third e-mail message with the e-mail thread and to update the persistent thread header to include information derived from attributes of the third e-mail message.